



CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE BORDER SECURITY

STRATEGY IMPROVEMENTS AND FUNDING INCREASES

Letters to the Administration listing critical and immediate action needed to secure the border

Congresswoman Giffords called on the Administration to take immediate steps to secure the border. In letters to the President and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, she made the following requests:

- Immediately deploy National Guard troops to the border to support the Border Patrol mission. The National Guard should be armed, given clear rules of engagement and allowed to defend themselves against attack.
- Establish Border Patrol Forward Operation Bases close to the border in rural areas of Cochise County.
- Deploy Mobile Surveillance System (MSS) units to the border to assist in the detection and apprehension of smugglers and other illegal crossers.
- Increase the number of Border Patrol Agents on horseback for greater mobility and access to rugged territory.
- Establish reliable electronic communications between law enforcement agencies and the residents of rural border areas.
- Increase by \$620 million the FY 2011 budget for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) raising the proposed appropriation from \$330 million to \$950 million.

Congresswoman Giffords joined a bipartisan group of House members in sending a letter to the President reiterating the need for immediate action to improve border security. The letter requested the deployment of National Guard to the Border among other strategies.

Congresswoman Giffords and Congressman Ted Poe of Texas introduced on May 4 a Concurrent Resolution calling for urgent action to secure the border in the interests of national security.

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Border Security Funding Requests in FY 2010

In May, Congresswoman Giffords submitted an emergency Supplemental Appropriations request for Fiscal Year 2010. She has received the support of 50 other members to increase the current Department of Homeland Security budget as follows:

\$32.2 million to hire new Border Patrol agents

CBP is responsible for protecting our nation's borders and ensuring robust levels of agents in the field is critical to achieving operational control of the border. The recent sharp increase in violence in the border region underscores the dangers faced by agents in the field, and the need for more Customs and Border Protection agents has never been more prevalent.

\$25 million for the U.S. Border Patrol

The Border Patrol's goal is to establish effective control over America's border with Mexico through the use of personnel, tactical infrastructure, and technology. With assaults against Border Patrol increased from last year's levels and violence raging across the border in Mexico, further investments are needed to equip agents with the tools they need to secure the border and ensure their own safety. Funding will go toward forward operating bases, communications equipment, surveillance equipment, officer support equipment and other resources.

\$30 million for the National Guard Counter Drug program

The National Guard Counter Drug Program conducts a full spectrum campaign that bridges the gap between Department of Defense and Non-DoD institutions in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational threats to the homeland.

\$50 million for Operation Stonegarden

Operation Stonegarden provides resources to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the borders of the U.S. The program is designed to promote cooperation and coordination between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the U.S. borders.

Border Security Funding Requests in FY 2011

Congresswoman Giffords submitted special funding requests to enhance border security in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget for the Department of Homeland Security. These requests are as follows:

\$7,000,000 for Cell Phone Towers in the San Bernardino Valley

East of Douglas, Arizona, lays the San Bernardino Valley, a sparsely populated portion of the border with rugged terrain and an ideal corridor for human and drug trafficking. On March 27, 2010, a well-respected rancher was murdered near the U.S.-Mexico border. Robert Krentz, whose family has ranched in the area for more than a century, was shot and killed on his ranch northeast of Douglas. Since this tragic event Congresswoman Giffords has met with local ranchers to get their advice on what should be done to decrease the violence and prevent another death. They said that one of the most important steps that must be taken is to improve electronic communication in the area which currently lacks cellular phone service. The dearth of communications technology has severely limited local residents' ability to effectively disseminate critical intelligence to local law enforcement and Border Patrol or contact emergency health services, greatly increasing security threats to area residents. It is imperative that mobile reception towers are installed in and around the San Bernardino Valley in order to increase the safety of border residents and bolster critical law enforcement efforts against human and drug smuggling.

\$3,000,000 for Nogales Border Fence Enhancement and Replacement

Adjacent to the Nogales Port of Entry, a corrugated metal barrier made of Landing Mats has stood between Mexico and the United States. It is regularly climbed over or cut through by people entering the U.S. illegally. Physical barriers have moved toward more sophisticated measures like Bollard-style fence systems which have been installed in other areas along the border in Nogales. The Bollard-style fence is virtually impenetrable and also allows border patrol agents to see anyone who is approaching the fence to either climb it or to throw projectiles at the Border Patrol Agents. This 2.9 mile stretch of fencing needs replacement in order to ensure that smugglers can no longer penetrate the barrier. This new fence will hinder illegal border crossings and will provide better protection to the Border Patrol Agents who are guarding the border.

\$15,500,000 Customs and Border Protection Agents

The FY 2011 proposed Homeland Security budget includes a dangerous reduction of 181 Border Patrol Agents. CBP is solely responsible for protecting our nation's borders. The recent increase in violence in the border region underscores the dangers faced by Agents in the field. The addition of technologies like SBInet has not proven successful and the need for more Customs and Border Protection agents has never been more prevalent. The funding reductions proposed for CBP agents undermine previous promises to grow the Border Patrol beyond 20,000 agents. This funding would restore the 181 positions that otherwise would be eliminated.

\$35,000,000 DHS Customs and Border Patrol Air and Marine Operations (CBP AMO) and USCG Maritime Predator B Systems

Funding will provide additional assets in detecting semi-submersible vehicles to support counter terrorism, narcotics and human trafficking. It will also provide an increased and persistent distribution of intelligence and security. Predator B is a long endurance, high altitude, UAS used for ISR, search & rescue, disaster relief, & emergency response. Additional funding is needed to ensure operational requirements are met. It is a cost effective, immediate solution to protect our national borders, littorals, ports and transit zones.

\$99,800,000 Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPO)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have the responsibility of protecting our nation's borders. As a single, unified border agency, CBP's mission is vitally important to the protection of America and the American people. CBP's priority mission is preventing terrorists and weapons from entering the United States, while also facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel. The recent growth in violence in the border region along with increased wait times at ports of entry underscore the need for more Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs). The FY 2011 proposed budget funds nearly 400 additional CBPOs, however the need is closer to 5,000 Officers. This additional funding will be used to hire more Officers to address our severe shortage in CBPOs, which will only be exacerbated when at least three new or expanded ports of entry become fully operational in the next few years.

Border Security Funding in Congress

With Congresswoman Giffords' support, the U.S. House of Representatives has approved **\$701 million** to strengthen enforcement on the southern border, including:

- The deployment of 1,200 National Guard troops to our southern borders of which Arizona will receive 524, more than any other border state.
- \$208.4 million for 1,200 additional Border Patrol agents deployed between the ports of entry along the Southwest Border.
- \$136 million to maintain current Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer staffing levels and add 500 additional officers at ports of entry along the Southwest Border.
- \$35.5 million for improved tactical communications on the Southwest Border, three permanent Border Patrol forward operating bases, and a surge of workforce integrity investigations designed to prevent corruption among CBP officers and agents.
- \$50 million for Operation Stonegarden grants to support local law enforcement activities on the border.
- \$32 million to procure 2 additional CBP unmanned aircraft systems.
- \$30 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities directed at reducing the threat of narcotics smuggling and associated violence.
- \$201 million for the Department of Justice to hire more DEA, ATF and FBI agents and more prosecutors.

Legislation

Stored Value Device Registration and Reporting Act

Drug cartels use stored value devices to launder money in and out of the United States. A recent threat assessment by the U.S. Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center dubbed the stored-value devices "an ideal money-laundering instrument." These devices can also be used to transfer funds to terrorist organizations outside the United States. Congresswoman Giffords introduced the Stored Value Device Registration and Reporting Act with Congressman Brian Bilbray (R-CA). The legislation will regulate the use of these cards under Title 31 and require individuals to declare to Customs Officers at the border if they are carrying \$10,000 or more on a stored value device. It will create stiff penalties for knowingly smuggling stored value devices into the United States and also requires operators of stored value systems to register with the Treasury and to list the businesses that issue stored value devices. Additionally, the legislation authorizes a study by the Treasury Department and the Department of Homeland Security to determine the extent to which stored-value devices are being used in drug and human trafficking or to fund terrorist organizations.

Ultralight Smuggling Prevention Act

Drug cartels continuously look for new ways to smuggle drugs into the United States. Their latest method is to use ultralight aircraft which are flown by a single pilot and are capable of flying up to 200 miles into our country. They fly low and can land and take off quickly. The Department of Homeland Security indicates that more than 190 such incursions have been reported since October 2009. Congresswoman Giffords introduced legislation with Congressman Dean Heller (R-NV) that would amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to include ultralight aircraft under the aviation smuggling provisions. Under this bill, a conviction could result in a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.